

Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period:

Empire District Electric Company's Request for Rate Increase:

Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed a petition with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) for approval to recover costs associated with the construction and operation of Iatan 1, Iatan 2, the Iatan Common Plant, and the Plum Point Generating Facility.

Public Hearing

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing concerning the proposed increase for Empire's customers. This hearing will allow Empire's customers to learn more about the proposal and provide an opportunity for customers to present testimony or comments for the Commission's review.

The public hearing will take place in two parts. First, during the question and answer period, representatives of Empire, the KCC staff, and CURB will be available to answer customers' questions pertaining to the proposed increase. In the second part of the hearing, customers will be allowed to make formal statements to the three-member Commission.

The KCC has scheduled a public hearing for Empire's customers:

Monday, November 07, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Southeast High School – High School Auditorium
126 W. 400 Highway
Cherokee, Kansas 66724

The Commission will accept written comments from Empire's customers through November 16, 2011. Comments regarding this case should reference Docket No. 11-EPDE-856-RTS and should be sent to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to the Commission at public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov.

A complete copy of the application and supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website at:

<http://estar.kcc.ks.gov/estar/portal/kcc/page/docket-docs/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx?DocketId=22a0a4bd-298f-4b36-a15c-7c9dc99b386b>

The KCC has until February 13, 2012 to make a decision on the proposed increase.

Empire's Rate Increase and Effect on Empire's Customers

The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) requesting an annual increase in gross revenues of \$1,535,579 or 6.39%.

Empire's current basic rates were approved by order of the Commission on June 23, 2010, Docket No. 10-EPDE-314-RTS, and were based on a test year ending June 30, 2009. Empire was allowed to recover the costs associated with Empire's investment in new generation facilities incurred through January 31, 2010, specifically the Riverton 12 Generating Unit, Asbury Power Plant, Iatan 1 Air Quality Control Systems (Iatan 1 AQCS), Plum Point Generating Station (Plum Point), and Iatan 2 Plant (Iatan 2). Empire is now seeking recovery of the remaining investment as well as the costs to operate the new plants that were incurred between the dates the plants were placed into operation and the date new rates would be effective. This recovery reflects the updates to Iatan 1 AQCS, Plum Point, and Iatan 2.

The rate increase, if granted, will result in an approximate monthly increase of \$7.00 per month for a residential customer using 1000 kilowatt-hours. The increase would impact all of Empire's approximately 9,975 Kansas retail customers, of which 8,533 are residential, 1,198 are commercial and small industrial, 50 are large industrial and 189 are public authority and street and highway customers.

Additional Information Available

For more information about the proposed increase, public hearing or technical hearing, contact the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Any person requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act needs to give notice to the Commission at least 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.

The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) may also be contacted 785-271-3200 for further information.